

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

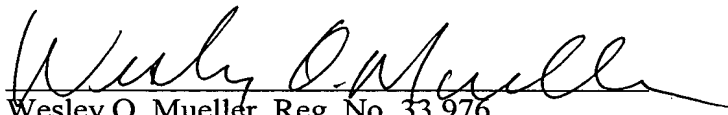
The Office Action dated November 2, 2005 has been carefully considered. Applicant has attempted to take into consideration the reasons for rejection set forth in the Office Action. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, applicant requests that the instant application be allowed.

Applicant has amended the claims to recite certain functional limitations as “means-plus-function” elements. Because the corresponding structure is a computer-implemented function, the structure corresponds to the algorithm disclosed in the patent specification and its equivalents. *See Harris Corp. v. Ericsson*, 417 F.3d 1241, 1253 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (“A computer-implemented means-plus-function term is limited to the corresponding structure disclosed in the specification and equivalents thereof, and the corresponding structure is the algorithm.”) Here, the corresponding structure to the means for determining and means for comparing elements of claims 1 and 6 is the algorithm disclosed in applicant’s patent specification and equivalents for performing those functions.

Applicant therefore submits that the claimed invention, which has been clarified by the amendments to the claims, is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Otten et al. U.S. Patent 5,139,044 (“Oten”). In the invention as now claimed, the operating pressure and actual flow rate of liquid applied to the shower header are measured, and the actual operating pressure is used to determine a calculated flow rate based on the computer-implemented methodology disclosed at, e.g., pages 7 through 9 of the application. The actual flow rate and the calculated flow rate are then compared. If the difference between the actual and calculated flow rates exceeds a threshold, a feedback signal is generated for causing the spraying system to change an operating condition based upon the performance of the spray

nozzles in the industrial shower header. The approach of utilizing a computer-implemented algorithm as disclosed in applicant's specification (or equivalents), in order to compensate for spray nozzle performance, is not taught by Otten. Applicant therefore submits that the claims should be allowable over Otten.

Respectfully submitted,



Wesley O. Mueller, Reg. No. 33,976

LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900

180 North Stetson Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780

(312) 616-5600 (telephone)

(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: February 2, 2006